

EXPLORATION WORK OF THE BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

In the first instance, each Regional Circle of the Botanical Survey of India reviewed the history and previous botany of the area of the circle and from a study of literature and various records worked out the areas which are unexplored and underexplored. Programmes of exploration and collection tours were next drawn up. Collections are done in all seasons of the year and all groups of plants are collected as far as possible.

Records of explorations by the four Regional Circles of the Botanical Survey of India during the last three years are briefly outlined here.

I. WESTERN CIRCLE**N. Kanara**

The Botanical exploration in N. Kanara was started in 1956 and so far eight botanical tours have been undertaken in different seasons covering the following areas: Yellapur, Dandilli, Katgal, Haliyal, Dharwar, Arsikeri, Ramling, Siddapur, Girasappa, Badami & Bijapur.

Mysore

The Botanical exploration in Mysore was started in 1957 and so far 13 botanical explorations have been undertaken. The following localities have been visited so far—Ghataprabha, Ukkad, Chikkailagur, Nandi hills, Bellary Nagarhalli, Hunsur, Agumbe, Makut, Shimoga, Mudigere, Sargod, Bellary, Kolar areas.

Kerala

Four botanical tours have been undertaken and the following localities have been visited—Nilambur, Palghat, Walyar, Malumphuza, Thekadi.

Khandesh

The botanical exploration in Khandesh was started in 1956 and major portion has been covered.

Deccan Trap areas

Districts of Poona, N. Satara, Ahmednagar, Nasik, Sholapur, Dangs have been intensively explored. 171 field trips have been undertaken.

Kutch

The botanical exploration in Kutch and Saurashtra was started in 1957 and so far six botanical tours have been undertaken and the following areas have been

visited so far: Bhuj, Dhinodhar, Mundra Mandvi, Taranga hill, Sudasua hill, Jamnagar, Chitrod, Anjar, Lakhadia, Rudramata.

Rajasthan

Seventeen botanical explorations have been undertaken covering Jaisalmer, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Mahendragiri, Chitod, Sadri, Sirohi, Sangapur nal, Baitaleo, Bikaner, Udaipur, Gagunda, Banaswara, Kailana.

Central India

The botanical exploration in Central India was started in 1957 and so far four tours have been undertaken and the areas visited were Alirajpur, Sardarpur, Mandu, Barwani, Indore, Bhopal, Guna, Baran, Kota, Jhalwar, Garhi, Mundia, Khera, Sirsuda, Sadaltpur, Mana, Piplani.

Coastal areas in Bombay

Four botanical tours have been undertaken touching Surat, Ankleshwar, Hansot, Danti, Broach, Khardi, Kasara, Thana, Ratnagiri, Dharampur, Awdha.

Laccadive Islands

Only one botanical exploration tour was undertaken in February-March, 1959.

II. SOUTHERN CIRCLE**Madras State**

The Maruthumalai, Thekkumalai and Vellingiri hills, Kuridimalai (Lampton's peak), Varapalayam and Chennathadagam Vallies and Siruvani hills in the Coimbatore District; Hulical Drug Reserve Forest, Kundha Reserve Forest, Upper and Lower Tiger Sholes, Pakasura hills and Mudumalai hills in the Nilgiri District. Singampatti and Courtallam Reserve Forest in the Tinavelly District; Pachamalai hills in Trichy District; Algar hills in Madura District; Javadi hills in North Arcot District; Pichavaram Marsh Forest in South Arcot District; Shevaroy hills in Salem District.

Andhra Pradesh

Kolleru lake and Narasapur Range Forest, Palkonda, Range in Cuddapha and Tirumalai hills.

Madhya Pradesh

Bastar and Jagadapur of Bastar District and Baghelkhand area of Rewa District.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands

A preliminary 3½ months exploration was undertaken in 1959.

III. NORTHERN CIRCLE

Jammu & Kashmir

Yarikhah, Tangmarg, Gulmarg, Khillanmarg, Apharwat, Ferozepur nala, Drang, Manasbal and Wular lakes, Pahalgam, Lidderwat, Kolohai and Sonamarg of Kashmir; Jammu, Kud, Batote, Munda, Bannihal, Bhadrawa, Patani Top and Kistawar areas of Jammu.

Punjab

Dalhousie, Dharamsala, Triund, Laca glacier base, Kulu, Lahul from Rohtang to Keylang; Hissar Sirsa and Fatehabad in the plains of Punjab.

Himachal Pradesh

Chamba, Lake Khajjar, Paonta, Nahan, Mandi and Riwalsar.

Uttar Pradesh

Badrinath, Mana valley, Vasudhara Gangharee, Kedarnath glacial valley, Pindari and Milam glaciers, Martoli Bugyals of Garhwal and Kumaon Himalayas; the sub-montane forest areas in Ramnagar, Haldwani, Tanakpur; Forest ranges of Bahraich District bordering on Nepal; Banda, Mirzapur, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Ghaziabad in the plains of Uttar Pradesh.

IV. EASTERN CIRCLE

Assam

Jowai & Garampani, Cherrapunji and Shillong Peak, Elephant falls, Barapani Mawphlong, Pynursla and

Dawki, Burnihat, Umtrue, Sonapur and Jorain, Umsaw Nongpoh, Mawngap, Nongkhlaw areas of Khasia and Jaintia Hills, Charduar, Dharikati, Potastali, Bhalukpung, Seijuisa along the west bank of Bhoreli river, Kocharigaon, Khaling Duar Reserve Forest, Orang Reserve Forest of Darrang Division; Chirang Reserve Forest, Mikir Haltugaon of Goalpara East Division; Narduar Reserve Forest, Mikir Foot hills, & Khaziranga Game Sanctuary, Khaziranga Reserve Forest, Kohara of Sibsagar Division; Reserve Forest of Rani, Jarasal, Garbhanga of South Kamrup Division; Motharguri and surroundings along Manas river bank of North Kamrup Division; Katakhal and inner line Reserve Forests of Loharband area of Cachar District; Dulong, Kakoi and Ranga Reserve Forests in North Lakhimpur Division.

NEFA

Foothills to Bomdi La, Chakoo, Towang, Se La, Kalaktang valley and Rupa valley of Kameng Frontier Division; Tezu to Heyuliang, Dou river valley of Lohit Frontier Division; Chenglang, Khela and Pangsupass Laju, Niauxa Banferra area, Patkoi mountain of Tirap Frontier Division; Tuting areas, Miguing, Bori areas of Siang Frontier Division.

Tripura

Reserve Forest of Cherilam, Radhkishorepur, Chandrapur, Garjee.

Bihar

Rajmahal Hills.

Orissa

Sukinda Anchal forest of Cuttack District, Reserve Forest of Rebna, Atai and Gandamardhan of Keonjhar District, Malyagiri of Sambalpur District and Simplipal hills.

Nepal Himalayas

Namchebazar and Valleys between Mount Everest and Mount Cho Oyu.